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# GREAT CITIES

AND

REMARKABLE PLACES.

NEW YORK:  
LEWIS COLBY & CO.  
1853.



*Great Cities  
and Remarkable Places*

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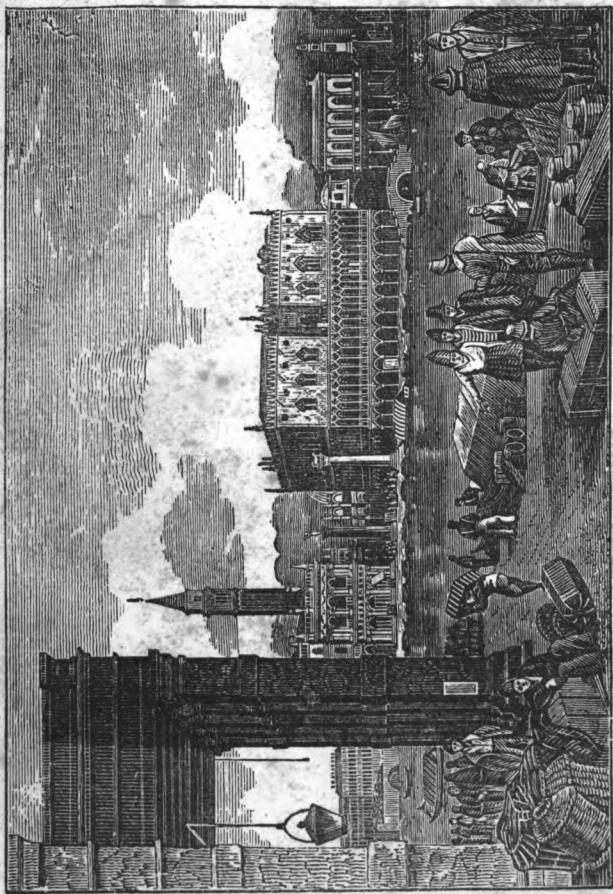




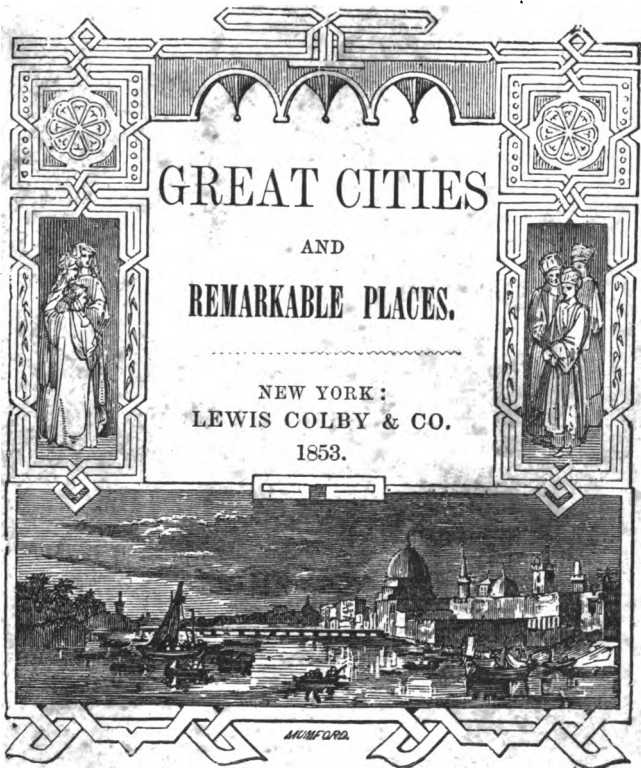








VENICE.



Jan 1853, 32.



*J. Franklin Currier*

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## CITIES AND REMARKABLE PLACES.

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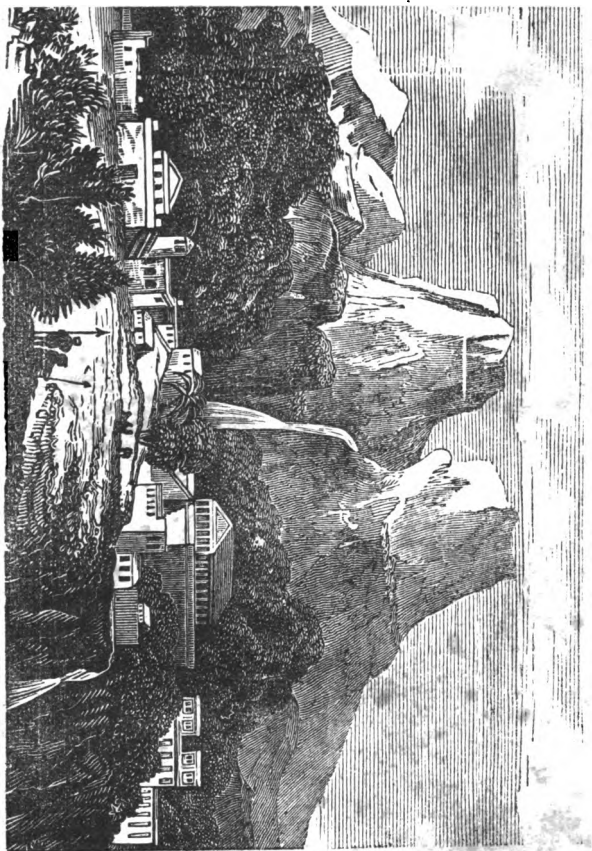
### VENICE.

VENICE is one of the most famous and beautiful cities in the world. It is built upon seventy small islands, upon the upper coast of the Adriatic sea. The city once had a great navy and a very extensive commerce. But, at present, the few vessels of war in its harbor, belong to Austria, and its trade is of rather small value. Among its public buildings, St. Mark's Church and the Ducal Palace hold the foremost rank. Gondolas, or boats, are used instead of carriages.

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## DELPHI.

THE ancient city of Delphi was situated at the foot of Mount Parnassus, in Greece, about forty-five miles northwest of Corinth. Here was the seat of the oracle of Apollo, to which the Greeks appealed for instruction, when about to undertake any important work or expedition. A splendid temple was erected in honor of the god, and states and princes vied with each other in the number and value of their offerings. In the course of time, the quantity of treasure accumulated at Delphi was immense, and conquerors sought to gain possession of some of it.



DELPHI.



The place was successively plundered by the Phocians, under Philomelus, by the Gauls, under Brennus, by Sylla, and others. Nero is said to have deprived it of no fewer than five hundred bronze statues and the richest ornaments. This sacred city of the Greeks was built on successive terraces, on the side of the mountain. Overhanging it, on the north, were the two famous peaks of Parnassus, the chasms between them affording an outlet for the Castalian spring. Every thing at Delphi has undergone a total change. The very position of the great temple is unknown, and the prophetic cavern is searched for in vain. Parnassus and the spring alone remain.

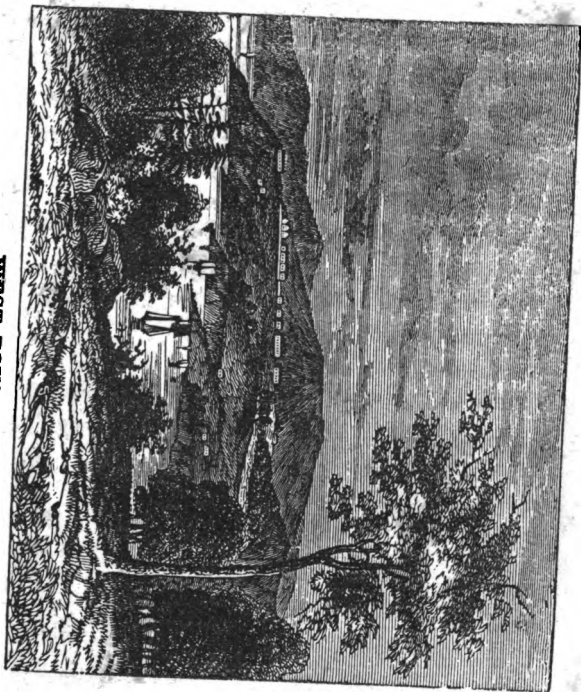


## WEST POINT.

WEST POINT is situated on the west bank of the Hudson river, about fifty-two miles above the city of New York. During the war of the revolution, it was considered the strongest and most valuable post in the possession of the Americans. The place now derives its importance from the United States Military Academy being located there. The buildings occupied by the institution are on an extensive scale. The library and observatory are in a building of the Gothic style, on which there is a dome, weighing four tons, which revolves on four cannon balls. The library

(10)

**WEST POINT.**



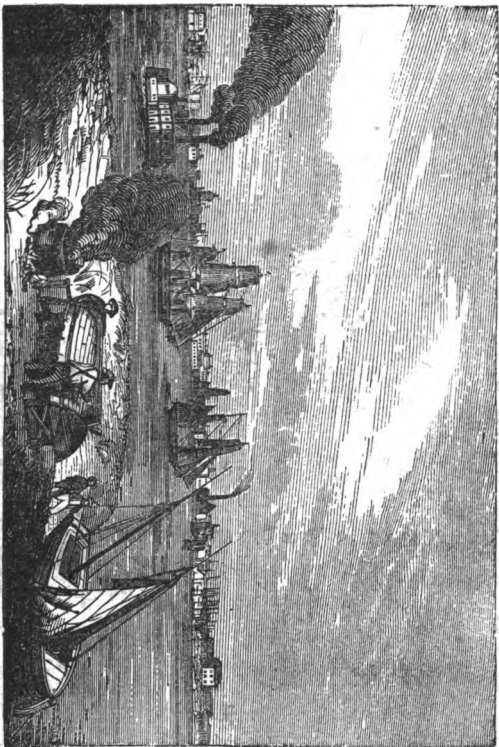


is large, and the sets of philosophical instruments, complete. There is a chapel devoted to religious purposes, which is fifty feet front by seventy feet deep, and twenty four feet high. The academy is a fine stone building, two hundred and seventy-five feet long by seventy-five feet wide, and three stories high, containing a riding hall, a number of recitation rooms, various offices and the engineering room. There are in the building two spacious galleries for painting and sculpture. In the basement is a chemical laboratory. The hospital is a stone edifice, admirably fitted up, and commanding a fine prospect. The military laboratory contains a number of pieces of ordnance. Besides these there are barracks and dwelling houses.

## MOBILE.

MOBILE is the largest city in the state of Alabama, and, next to New Orleans, the largest cotton market in the United States. Upwards of three hundred and twenty thousand large bales have been exported from this city in a single year. Mobile is situated on the west side of the Mobile river, at its entrance into the bay of the same name. Its site is elevated fifteen feet above the highest tides. The city is rapidly increasing in size, and now contains about twenty-five thousand inhabitants. It has fifty wharves. Vessels requiring a draught of more than eight

(14)



**MOBILE.**



feet water cannot come directly to the city, but pass up Spanish river, six miles around a marshy island, into Mobile river, and then keep down to the wharves. Mobile contains some handsome buildings, among which are a United States Naval Hospital, a Custom House, and a Court House. The harbor is defended by Fort Morgan, formerly called Fort Brower, situated on a long, low, sandy point, at the mouth of the bay, opposite to Dauphin island. There is a light-house on Mobile Point, the lantern of which is fifty-five feet above the level of the sea. Mobile has suffered severely from fire. In 1827, one hundred and seventy buildings were burned, and in 1839, six hundred buildings.

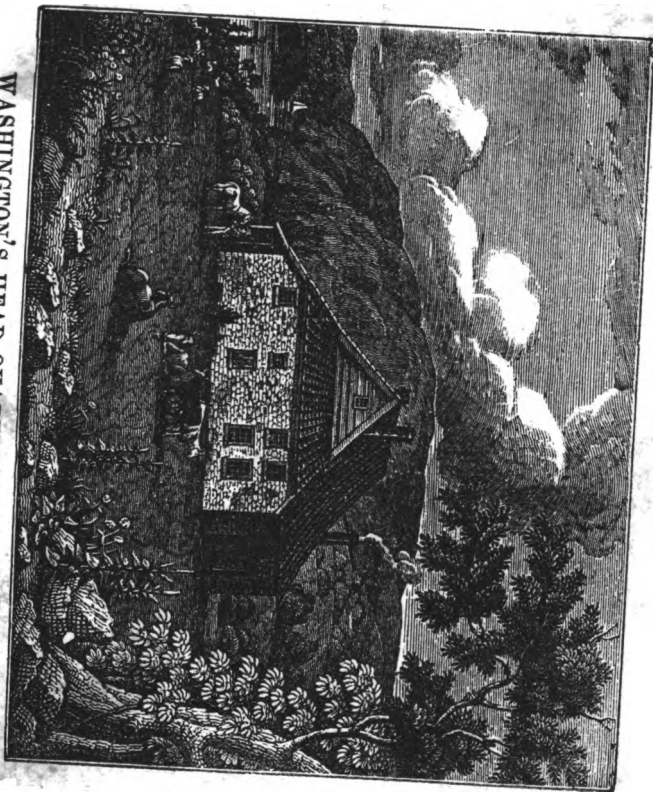


## WASHINGTON'S HEAD-QUARTERS, AT NEWBURG.

DURING a portion of the revolutionary war, the American army was quartered among the highlands of the Hudson. The head-quarters of the commander-in-chief, General Washington, were fixed at Newburg, a small town on the west bank of the river, about nine miles above West Point. The house, which is the one represented in the picture, is still standing, and does not look as if it would fall into decay for many years yet. It is large and commodious. In some of the rooms a number of relics of the revolution are

(18)

WASHINGTON'S HEAD QUARTERS, AT NEWBURG.



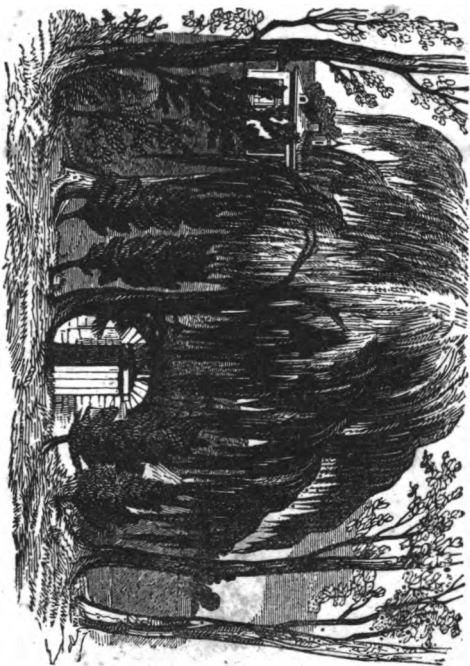


preserved in cases to be shown to visitors. The house has a commanding situation about twenty feet above the river. From its porch, Washington could obtain a view of what was passing at West Point, and other posts in the neighborhood. The surrounding scenery is beautiful. Just below the house, Butter Hill rises abruptly from the river to the height of fifteen hundred feet. On the opposite side of the Hudson is a hill of nearly equal height. These eminences make the river, which flows between and which is very broad, look narrow. The head-quarters, at Newburg, is now a common place of resort for tourists.

## THE TOMB OF WASHINGTON.

THE tomb of the great Washington is situated at Mount Vernon, on the banks of the Potomac. When the steamboats on the river pass this interesting spot they toll their bells as a mark of respect, and then those who wish to visit are landed. Mount Vernon is a large and beautiful estate and was the favorite residence of Washington. Here he loved to retire when he could spare a few days from his long public services, and here he sought ease and repose, when his glorious work was complete. The family mansion is still standing, but it is somewhat decayed.

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**THE OLD TOMB OF WASHINGTON.**



Among the trees in the neighborhood are some, beneath whose shade, Washington played when a boy. The tomb is not far from the mansion. The ruins of the old tomb, from which the remains were removed to be interred in a more beautiful and appropriate manner, are still to be seen a short distance from the mansion, near the shores of the river.

Washington in his will, designated the spot in which he wished to be interred. The tomb first constructed was nothing more than a plain brick vault, almost level with the ground. Visitors were allowed to see the interior for a short time; but some persons had the rudeness to strip off part of the cloth from the coffin, all access to it was forbidden. At length,



Congress resolved to provide a more fitting receptacle for the remains of the "Father of his Country," and having obtained permission from his surviving relatives, ordered a beautiful sarcophagus and a large and elegant vault to be constructed. Into these, the remains were removed; and now the visitor to Mount Vernon finds a double attraction in being near the ashes of Washington, and in gazing upon their beautiful protection.

It was once proposed to remove the remains of Washington to the Capitol of the United States. But Mount Vernon must ever be considered their fittest resting-place. There you look round upon scenery which the "Father of his Country" often gazed upon and admired; you tread the



THE NEW TOMB OF WASHINGTON.



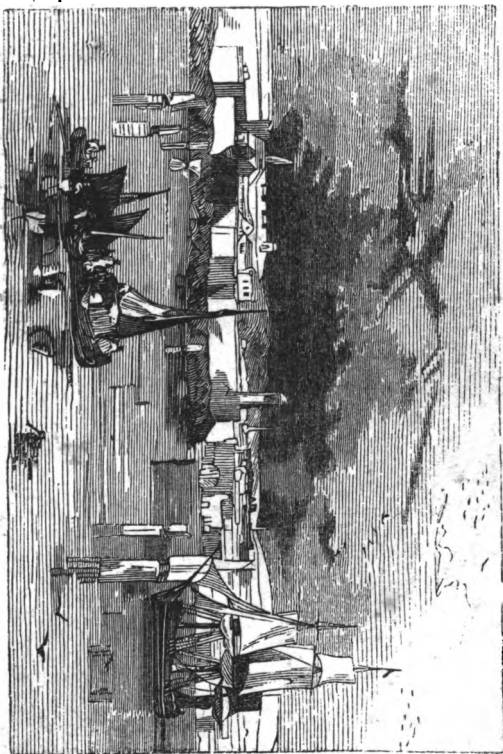
ground upon which he walked; you see the gardens in which he amused himself; the trees which he planted; the houses, the rooms, the chair which he occupied; and the humble vault which he himself chose for the repose of his dust. Every thing is in harmony with the mildness and beauty of the idea which we have formed of his character.

## HAVANA.

HAVANA, the capital of the large and fertile island of Cuba, is one of the most flourishing cities of the New World. It is situated on the northern coast of the island, at the mouth of the river Lagiza, with the sea in its front. The total population is estimated at one hundred and forty thousand persons. The harbor is one of the best in the world—being very strong, naturally, and spacious enough to contain one thousand ships. The entrance is a narrow channel, so difficult of access, that only one vessel can enter at a time. It is defended by two strong

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**HAVANA.**





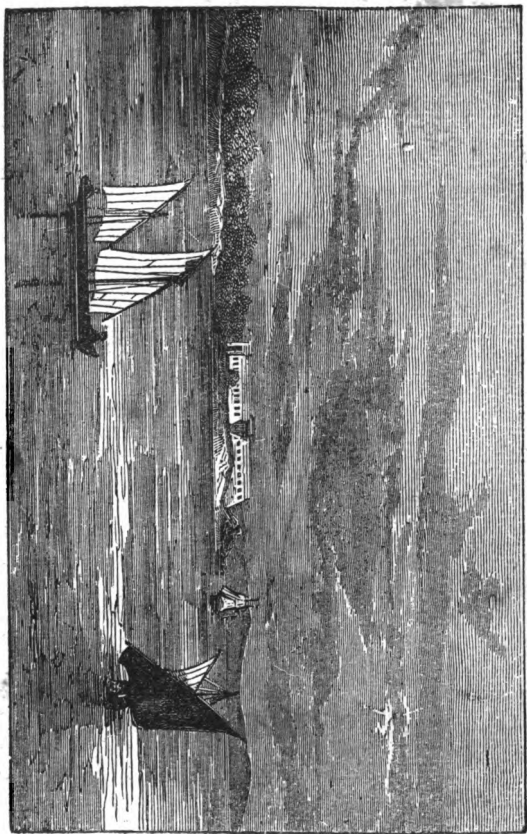
castles and a line of batteries. The streets of Havana are, in general, narrow, unpaved, and dirty. The city contains eleven large churches, which are splendidly ornamented with lamps, images, and paintings. There are seven monasteries, four nunneries, and seventy-eight schools for both sexes. The houses are almost all of one story, and of a Gothic structure. The principal ones are built of stone and covered with terraces. The great square is one of the chief ornaments of the city. The morals of the people are loose. Gaming, cock-fighting, and other vicious amusements are common. The language and manners of the people are Spanish. Havana has the honor of containing the bones of Columbus.



## RED BANK.

RED BANK is situated on the Jersey side of the Delaware river, about eight miles below Philadelphia. In 1776, the Americans fortified this commanding position. A strong redoubt, with outworks, was erected. The garrison consisted of about four hundred New England troops, under the command of Colonel Christopher Greene. When the British army, under Sir William Howe, took possession of Philadelphia, he became extremely anxious to drive the Americans from Red Bank, as they prevented the British fleet from coming up to the city. Accordingly,

**RED BANK.**





he sent Count Donop, a brave German officer, with about two thousand troops, to perform the work. On the afternoon of the 22d of October, 1777, Count Donop reached his destination, and almost immediately led on his troops to the attack. The brave garrison received the enemy with a tremendous fire, and then retired within the redoubt, where they were determined to die rather than surrender the works. The Germans advanced with firmness, but such was the resolution of Colonel Greene and his men, that the assailants were compelled to retire, leaving behind them, Count Donop, mortally wounded, with many of them slain, wounded, or taken prisoners. Count Donop was buried near where he fell.

## ASTORIA.

ASTORIA was the first regular settlement in Oregon territory. It was founded in 1811, by John Jacob Astor, an enterprising merchant and fur-trader, who became before his death the richest man in America. Astoria is situated on the south side of Columbia river, eight miles from its entrance into the Pacific. As a trading-post, it was considered very valuable. Before the establishment of Astoria, the English Hudson's Bay Company had monopolized the trade with the Indians of Oregon territory, and realized a great profit from the immense quantity of furs and skins ob-

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**ASTORIA.**





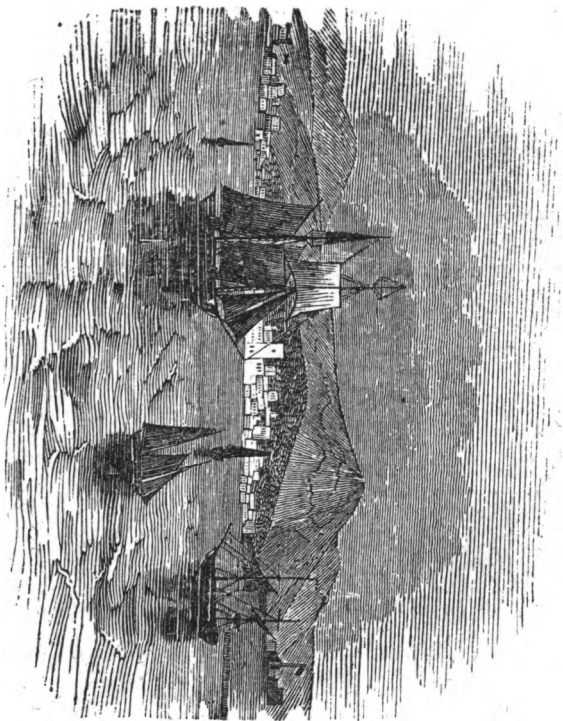
tained. Mr. Astor then came in for a share of the lucrative traffic and added largely to his fortune. Astoria then fell into the hands of the Hudson's Bay Company, and its name was changed to Fort George. That enterprising Company then enjoyed complete control of the fur trade in that section. Within the last ten years, however, the United States have made good their claim to the greater portion of Oregon territory, and the settlements are spreading through it with rapidity. Astoria has been left far behind by some other towns. But it is a very pretty little place and the scene of a flourishing trade.



## SAN FRANCISCO.

THE city of San Francisco is the commercial capital of California and the principal port upon the Pacific coast of America, in the great bay of San Francisco. It has one of the largest and best sheltered harbors in the world. The entrance is about two miles broad, and is called the Golden Gate. The city may be said to be but about four years old, having grown up almost entirely since the discovery of the gold mines of California, early in 1848. Before that time, there was a small village of about thirty houses on the spot where the city now stands,

**SAN FRANCISCO.**





and but few vessels entered the bay. As soon, however, as the information of the great metallic wealth of the territory spread among commercial nations, the harbor became crowded with ships from every port and a great and busy city soon grew up. San Francisco has now about fifty thousand inhabitants, and the number is rapidly increasing. The city has suffered much from destructive fires; but these have not been able to retard its growth. Doubtless, it will become, the New York of the Pacific coast.

## BIRTH-PLACE OF COL. HOWARD.

GENERAL GREENE, a good judge of men, said that Colonel John Eager Howard was an officer who deserved a statue of gold. Colonel Howard was born near the city of Baltimore, Maryland, on the 4th of June, 1752. On the breaking out of the revolutionary war, he was appointed a captain, and in December, 1776, he was promoted to a majority in one of the seven regiments raised in his native state. On the 1st of June, 1779, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel, and, after the battle of Hobkirk's Hill, he succeeded to the command of the second regiment. At

(46)

**BIRTH-PLACE OF COLONEL JOHN EAGER HOWARD.**





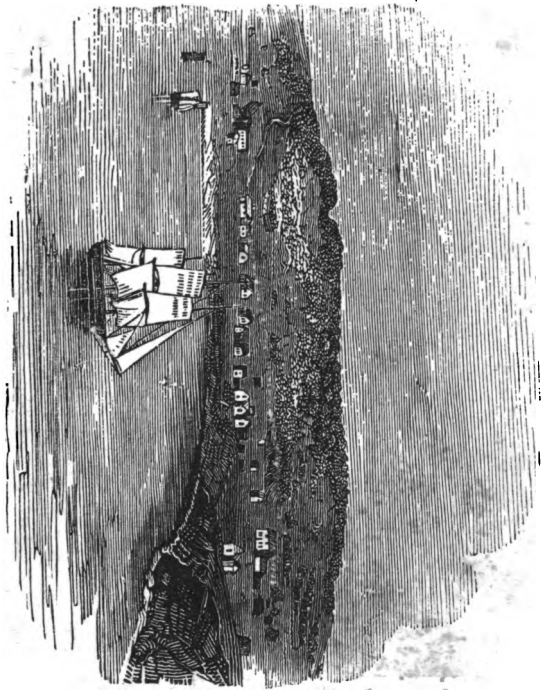
the battle of the Cowpens, Colonel Howard led on the decisive charge with the bayonet. For his gallant conduct in this action, he received the thanks of Congress and a silver medal. In the battle of Eutaw Springs, he headed the Maryland line in several charges, and received a wound from which he never entirely recovered. On the disbanding of the army, he retired to his estate, near Baltimore. Subsequently, Colonel Howard was chosen governor of Maryland, and a member of the United States Senate. In 1812, he stimulated the people of Baltimore to defend their city. After the war he retired to his estate, where he died in 1827. His birth-place is still to be seen near the city of Baltimore.



## MONTEREY, IN CALIFORNIA.

THE sea port of Monterey, in California, must be distinguished from the strongly fortified town of the same name in Mexico. The Californian town is situated on the bay of Monterey, which gives it a tolerable harbor. Before the territory fell under the authority of the United States, Monterey was the principal port upon the coast, and a town of considerable size. The greater portion of it is built at the foot of an eminence, which is crowned with tall pines. From the sea, the town has a beautiful appearance. Since the discovery of the gold mines, it has in-

MONTEREY, IN CALIFORNIA.

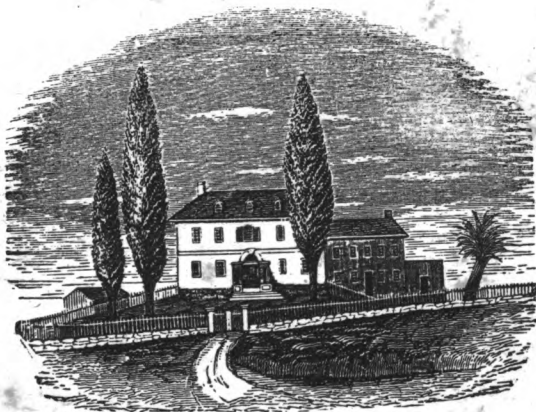




creased in size very rapidly, and the value of its trade is now more than treble what it was before. At the time of the breaking out of the war, between Mexico and the United States, the greater number of the inhabitants were descendants of the Spaniards. They were indolent, superstitious, and fond of vicious pleasures. The most of their time was spent in gambling, drinking, and dancing. The arrival of persons from the United States, changed the aspect of things. More energy and attention to business were manifested, and consequently the town began to improve.

## HEAD-QUARTERS OF WASHINGTON AT MORRISTOWN.

At the close of the campaign of 1779, the American army went into winter quarters, the main body in the neighborhood of Morristown, New Jersey. The head-quarters of Washington were at Morristown. The house, of which the picture is a correct representation, is, we believe, still standing. The winter set in with much severity. The channels of transportation were closed, and the troops were reduced to the greatest distress, for the want of provisions. But an appeal to the inhabitants was answered favorably, and supplies were brought for the camp.



**HEAD-QUARTERS AT MORRISTOWN.**

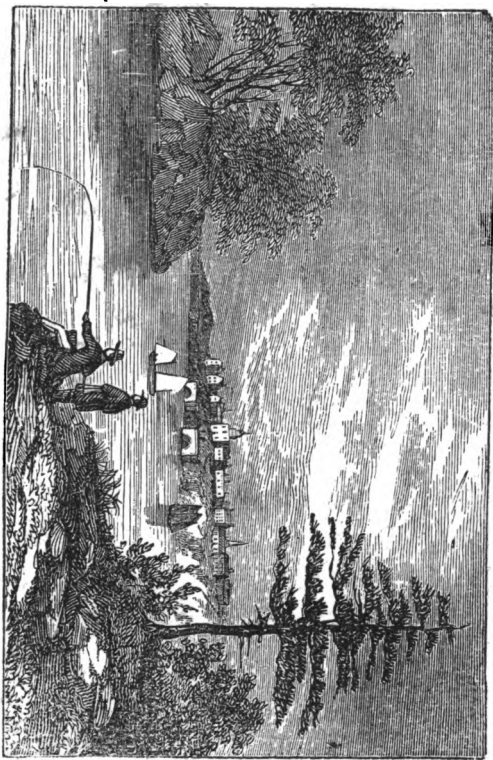


The following incident is said to have occurred, while Washington resided at Morristown. A man of respectable standing in the neighborhood, was very active in showing kindness and civility to the general; but paid his debts in depreciated paper money, which Washington held in strong dislike. On one occasion when the general was conversing with some of his officers in his apartment, this man was introduced as usual, but in spite of his servility, he could not gain a notice from Washington. Afterwards, when asked the reason for his conduct, Washington said, "I know I have not been cordial, I tried hard to be civil, and attempted to speak to him two or three times, but that continental money stopped my mouth."



## NASHVILLE.

NASHVILLE, the capital of Tennessee is pleasantly situated on the south side of Cumberland river, about one hundred and twenty miles from its mouth, at the head of steamboat navigation. The site is rocky and uneven. The environs present a rich variety of landscape, and the place is remarkably healthy. Nashville has convenient streets, lanes, and alleys, crossing each other at right angles, having a good drainage, and many handsome sites for residences. The public buildings are equal to those of any other city in the west. The state house, court house, peni-



**NASHVILLE.**

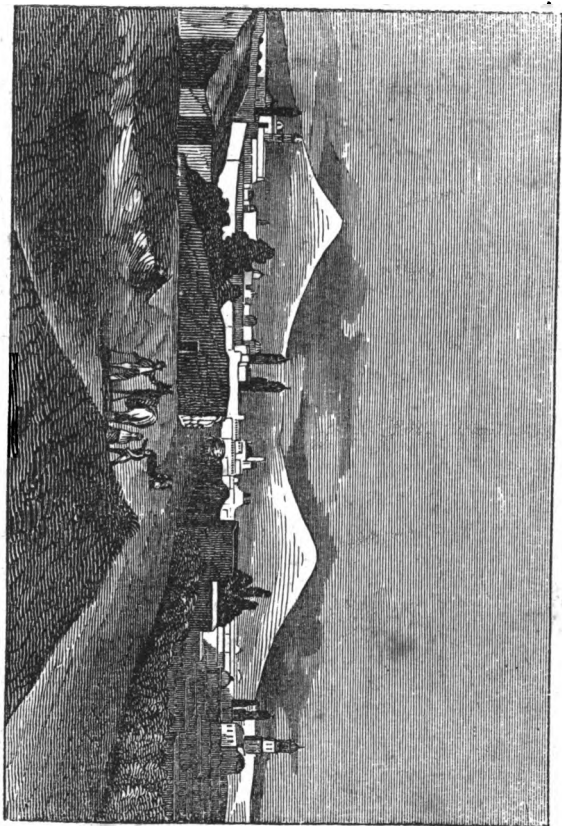


tentiary, university, and several churches are the principal. There are a number of fine schools in the city, presenting opportunities for a thorough education. The charitable institutions are in a prosperous condition. The city is supplied with water from the river. During the summer season, Nashville is visited by persons from all parts of Tennessee, in search of health and recreation. It is generally esteemed as one of the most beautiful and delightful cities in the United States, and during the session of the legislature, it is full of life. The trade is valuable, and rapidly increasing. At high water, vessels of four hundred tons can come up to the city.

## PUEBLA.

PUEBLA is a city in Mexico, the capital of a state of its own name, on the declivity of a hill, seventy-six miles from the city of Mexico. It is compactly and uniformly built. The streets, though not very wide, are straight, and intersect each other at right angles, and paved with large diamond-shaped stones, with broad and well-kept foot paths on either side. The houses are built of stone, and generally two stories high, with flat roofs, having courts in the centre, surrounded with open galleries, and a fountain of fine water conveyed thither by earthen pipes.

(62)



**PUEBLA.**

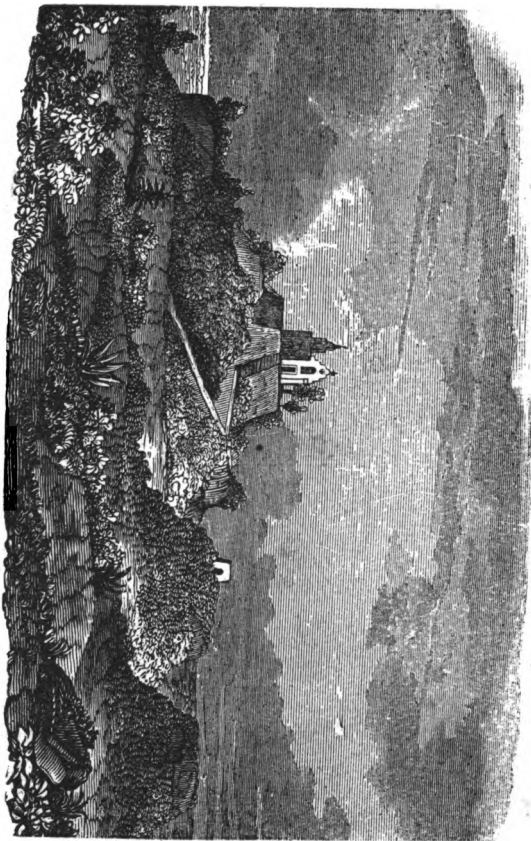


Many have iron balconies towards the street, and their fronts are inlaid with highly glazed tiles, or else gaudily painted. Puebla has no fewer than sixty-nine churches, nine monasteries, thirteen nunneries, and twenty-three colleges, while the population only numbers between sixty and seventy thousand persons. The cathedral, which forms one side of the principal square, has nothing striking in its exterior, but its interior is very rich. The high altar is particularly splendid. Several of the other churches are handsome, and with the cathedral, abound in gold and silver ornaments, paintings, and statues. Many of the inhabitants are wealthy, but swarms of beggars infest the city. The climate is healthy.



## PYRAMID OF CHOLULA.

ABOUT eight miles northwest of the city of Puebla is the town of Cholula, with its famous pyramid. This structure is now covered with prickly pear, cypress, and other evergreen shrubs, and at a distance resembles a high hill. As it is approached, however, it is seen to consist of four distinct stories, the whole built with alternate layers of clay and sun-dried bricks, and crowned with a small church. According to Humboldt, the traveller, each side of the base of the pyramid measures fourteen hundred and forty feet, being almost double the base of the great pyramid of



**PYRAMID OF CHOLULA.**

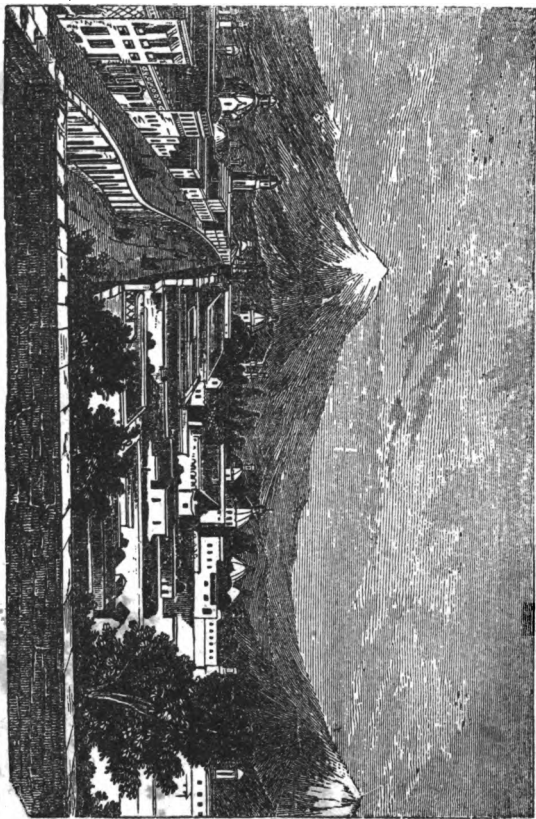


Cheops, in Egypt. The height of this pyramid of Cholula, however, is only one hundred and sixty-four feet. The ascent to the platform on its summit is by a flight of one hundred and twenty steps. The chapel erected on it is in the shape of a cross, about ninety feet in length, with two towers and a dome. It was dedicated to the Virgin by the Spaniards, and has succeeded to a temple of Quetzalcoatt, the Mexican god of air. The present road from Puebla to Mexico passes through the first story of the pyramid. The view from the top embraces the Cordillera mountains, the volcanoes of La Puebla, and the fertile and beautiful plain beneath. The town of Cholula is quite small.

## THE CITY OF MEXICO.

THE city of Mexico is situated nearly in the centre of an elevated plain, surrounded by mountains. The ancient capital was built on some islands in the Lake Tezcucó, but owing to the diminution of the waters of the lake the modern city is two and a half miles west from it. The ground on which Mexico stands is low and swampy. The largest buildings are erected on piles, and the roads leading to it are raised six or eight feet above the surrounding flat. The streets are wide, well-paved and flagged, but not lighted or watched; so that robberies and assassi-

**THE CITY OF MEXICO.**





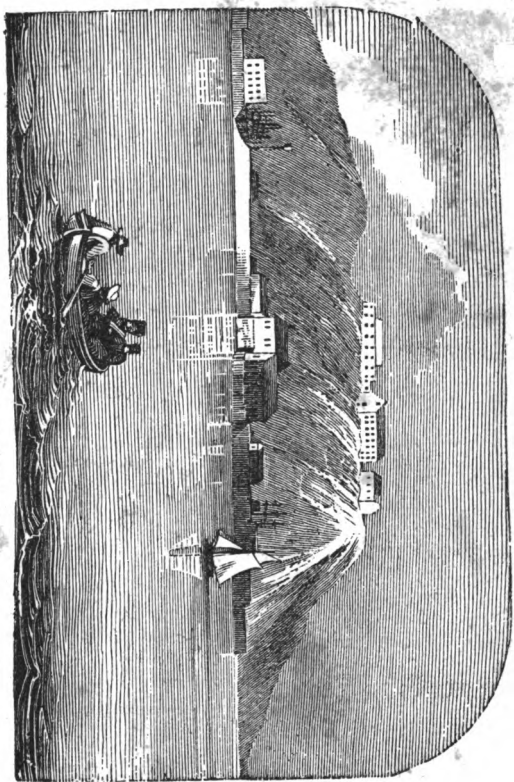
nations are no less common than in Spain. Nearly all the houses are hollow squares, with open courts, surrounded by colonnades and ornamented with plants. The roofs are flat. The grand square is one of the finest to be seen in any capital in the world. Its eastern side is occupied by the cathedral and parish church, its northern side by the National Palace, and the other two sides by rows of shops and dwellings. The Alameda, or public walk, at the western end of the city somewhat resembles a park. The language, manners, and customs of the inhabitants are Spanish. The lower orders of the people are lazy, vicious beggars. Bull-fighting and gambling are common amusements.



## KINGSTON, UPPER CANADA.

KINGSTON, on the north shore of Lake Ontario, about one hundred and forty miles northeast of Toronto, was formerly the capital of Upper Canada, and though less central has been considered as better suited for this distinction than Toronto, the present seat of government. Kingston has an excellent harbor, where ships of the line may lie close to the shore, and is also the site of the principal dock-yard in the colony. It covers a considerable extent of ground, and many of its houses are built of stone. It contains several handsome and commodious public build-

CITADEL OF KINGSTON.

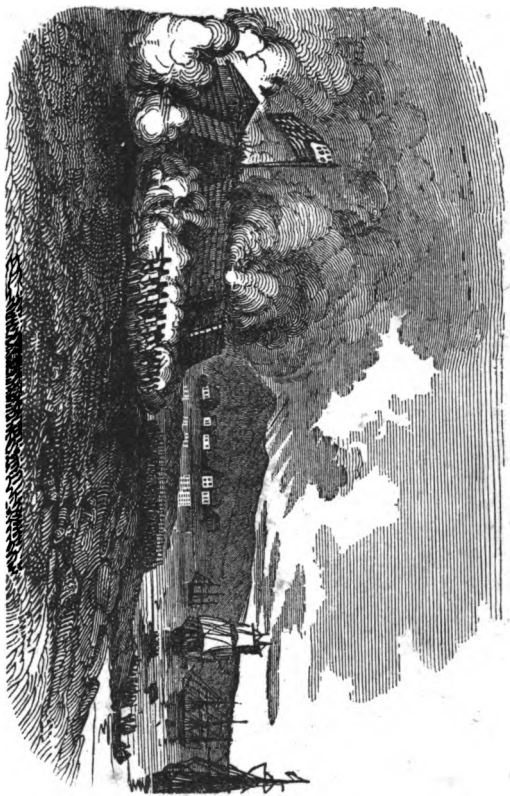




ings, and though its population has decreased, it is still the chief seat of trade between the Upper and Lower Provinces. The capital is very strong. It occupies a high and commanding position, and is well garisoned and supplied with artillery. Kingston was founded, in 1783, on the site of Fort Frontignac. During the war of 1812, between the United States and Great Britain, when each of the belligerents strove to gain the control of the great lakes, Kingston became the chief station of the British on Lake Ontario. Here, Sir James Yeo had the command of a large and efficient fleet; but he could not encounter the American fleet, under Commodore Chauncy.

## FORT OSWEGO.

THE town of Oswego is situated on the southern shore of Lake Ontario. Its harbor is one of the finest on the Lakes, and is formed by a pier or mole of stone, one thousand two hundred and fifty-nine feet long on the west side, and two hundred feet on the east side, with an entrance between. The town is rapidly increasing in size, and its commerce is becoming very valuable. On the east side of the harbor, on rising ground ceded to the United States, is Fort Oswego, for the defence of the harbor, which occupies nearly the site of an old fort famous in the French and



**CAPTURE OF FORT OSWEGO.**

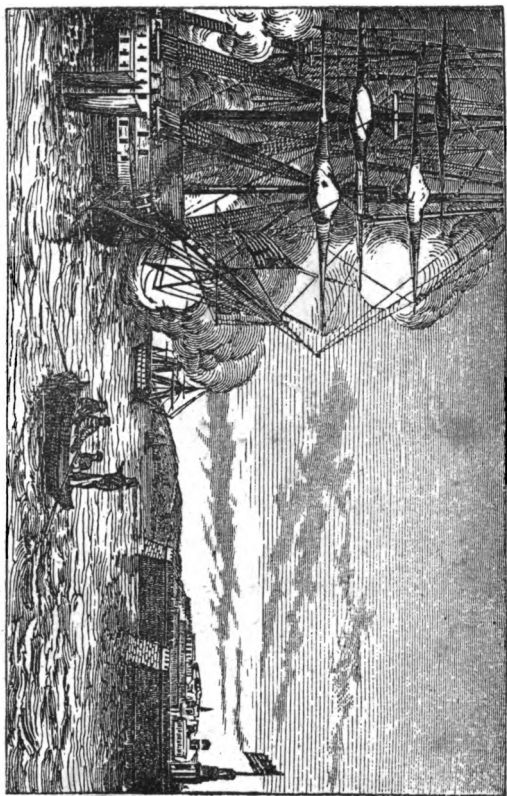


revolutionary wars. This fort was taken by the Marquis de Montcalm on the 14th of August 1756. The British commander, Colonel Mercer and about fourteen hundred men were made prisoners. A large quantity of stores and ammunition fell into the hands of the victors. At the peace of 1763, Fort Oswego was surrendered to the British. During the war of 1812, the Americans retained possession of this post, which, however, was not then of much importance. The town fell into possession of the British, early in the war, but they were driven from it in twelve hours without loss.



## VERA CRUZ.

VERA CRUZ is the principal sea-port of Mexico. It is situated on a low, sandy shore, on the south-west side of the Gulf of Mexico. The city is well built, and its towers, cupolas, and battlements, give it an imposing appearance from the sea. It is, however, surrounded by barren sand-hills, and ponds of stagnant water, and is very unhealthy. The houses of Vera Cruz are mostly large, some of them being three stories high, built in the old Spanish or Moorish style, and generally inclosing a square court with covered galleries. The castle of San Juan de Ulloa, which com-



**ATTACK ON VERA CRUZ.**



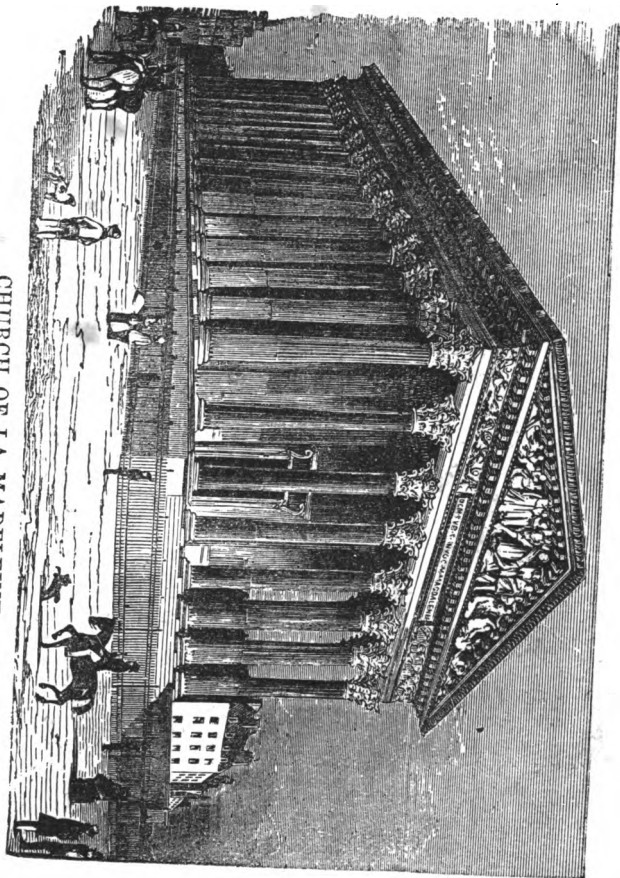
mands the town, is built on the small islands of the same name, and is one of strongest citadels in the world. The town and castle are built of madrepore, the lime that forms the cement being of the same material. The harbor of Vera Cruz is a mere roadstead between the town and castle, and the anchorage is very bad. In March, 1847, the town and castle were blockaded and besieged by the fleet and army of the United States, under the command of General Scott and Commodore Perry, and after sustaining a very severe bombardment and cannonading, were compelled to surrender.

## CHURCH OF LA MADELEINE.

THE Church of La Madeleine is one of the most splendid ornaments of Paris. It stands at the north end of the Rue Royale. It is Grecian in style, being built on the model of the Parthenon, at Athens. But La Madeleine is much larger than its famous model, being three hundred and twenty-eight feet in length, and one hundred and thirty-eight in breadth. The material used in the building was marble, of a good quality. The church is upon the whole a noble structure, and in purity and elegance of design may rank with the first Grecian

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CHURCH OF LA MADELEINE.





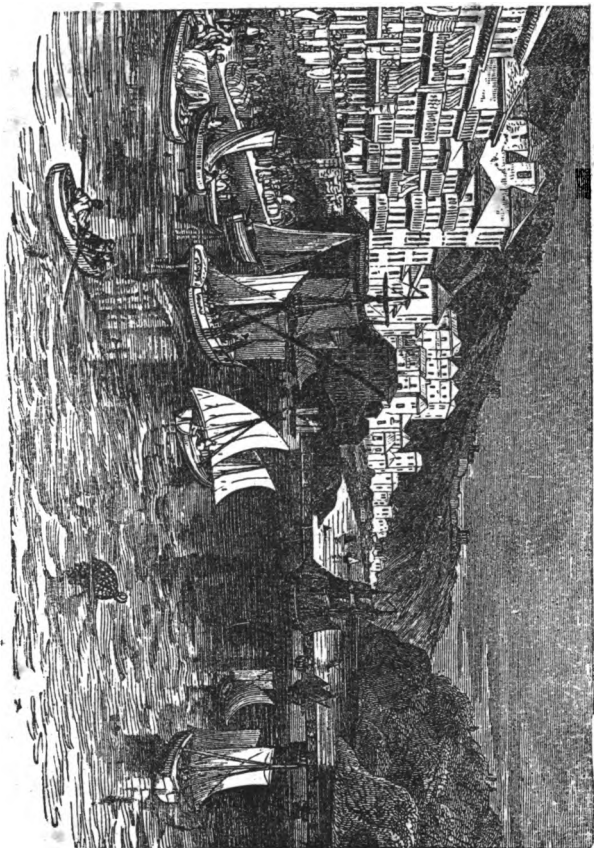
temples in the world. To Napoleon Bonaparte belongs the glory of ordering the erection of La Madeleine, and within its walls his remains are now entombed. The paintings and sculptures are of the most splendid description. Six beautiful paintings on the tympan of the lateral arches above the chapels, illustrate events in the life of Mary Magdalen. The southern end of the church is surmounted by the largest sculptural pediment in existence. In the centre is the figure of Christ, eighteen feet in height, and at his feet in an attitude of suppliant penitence, is the Magdalen. Other figures, representing virtues and vices, fill up the remaining space.



## OPORTO.

OPORTO is an important commercial city of Portugal, situated on the north bank of the Druro, about two miles from its mouth. The town has four suburbs, which with the town itself, cover an area of about two and a half square miles. The population numbers over ninety thousand persons. The town is built partly on the sides of two hills, but partly also on a plain, near the river, from which it has a strikingly beautiful appearance. A wall flanked with towers encircles the town, which is further defended by a fort. An elevated quay extends along

(90)



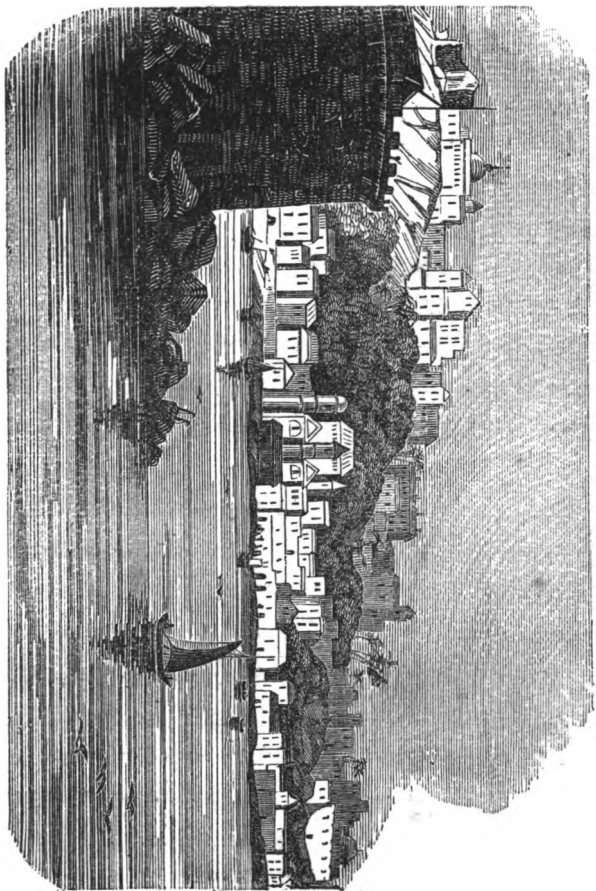
OPORTO.



the whole front. Oporto is generally well built, and has the reputation of being cleaner than any other city or town in Portugal. The houses are all white-washed. There are several fine, broad, well-paved streets, but many that are narrow and crooked. Oporto has several squares, which are planted with trees, and used as promenades. Among the public buildings are a cathedral, a large number of churches, and seventeen convents. The harbor of Oporto can only be entered at high water. The city has an extensive foreign and inland commerce. The principal export is the famous port wine. Forty thousand pipes of this wine have been exported in a year.

## BAHIA, OR SAN SALVADOR.

BAHIA, or San Salvador, is one of the largest and most important cities of South America. It is situated in the Brazilian province of Bahia, on the bay of All-Saints, just within Cape San Antonio. The estimates of the population vary from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and sixty thousand, of which a third are supposed to be whites, a third mulattoes, and a third blacks. Bahia is built partly along the ridge, and partly on the declivity of a very high and steep hill, fronting the entrance of the bay... It consists of an upper and lower town, the former



**BAHIA, OR SAN SALVADOR.**

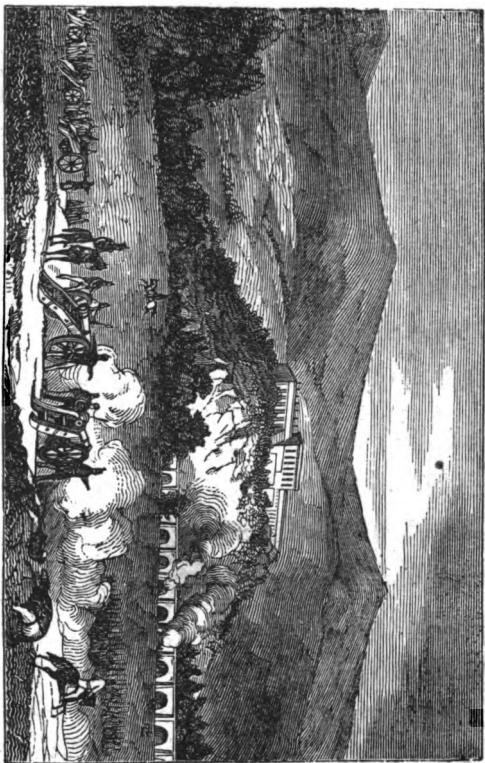


including the suburbs of Bom Fim and Victoria. The upper town stands on a ridge, between the sea and a lake on the north, and contains several fine streets, in which reside the principal inhabitants of the city. The lower town is extremely dirty, and although the streets are very narrow, it is no uncommon thing to see them occupied by artisans, with their benches and tools. The city is defended by Fort do Mar, and some other works; but none of them are very strong. In the number and beauty of its public buildings, Bahia ranks as the first city of Brazil. The harbor is one of the best upon the coast of South America, and may be entered at any time.



## CHAPULTEPEC.

CHAPULTEPEC is one of the strongest fortresses in Mexico. The castle stands upon a lofty mound, not far from the capital, and so steep, rugged, and guarded are the passes, that it seems almost unapproachable. Here is situated the military academy of Mexico, and a strong garrison is generally maintained in the castle. Its batteries command one of the principal roads, which cannot be attained by an enemy without first capturing this strong post. During the war between Mexico and the United States, the forces, under the command of General Winfield



**STORMING OF CHAPULTEPEC.**



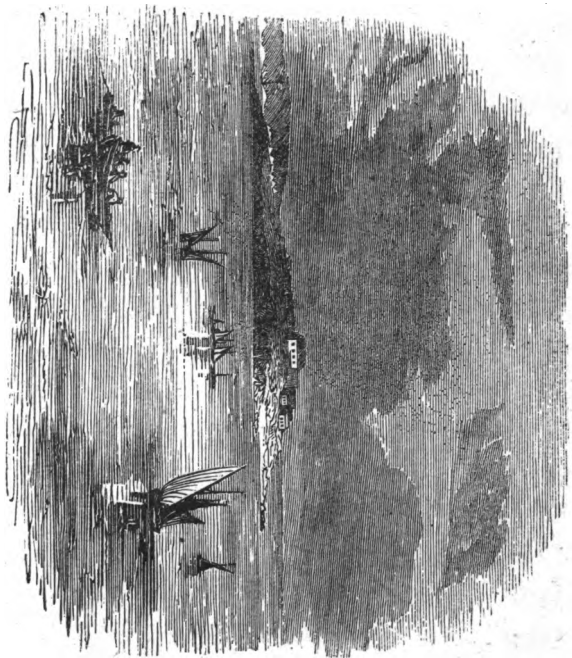
Scott, captured Chapultepec. The castle was cannonaded for a whole day; and two storming columns, led by Generals Quitman and Pillow, advanced to the assault. The troops encountered a tremendous fire, but pressed forward with heroic courage, and gaining the height, planted the flag of the United States on the ramparts. General Bravo, a large number of officers, and about fifteen hundred privates, were made prisoners of war, and the cannon and stores captured were of immense value.

## POINT ISABEL.

POINT ISABEL is situated at the mouth of the Rio Grande—the river that separates Texas from Mexico—on the United States side. During the Mexican war, this was a very important depot for stores. Without the possession of this place, the operations of the army, under the command of General Taylor, would have been seriously embarrassed, as it is the only landing place in the neighborhood of the mouth of the river, and the large vessels of the United States could not ascend the Rio Grande.

In April, 1846, General Taylor took  
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POINT ISABEL.





possession of Point Isabel. While he was there, the Mexican army, six thousand strong, under the command of General Arista, crossed the Rio Grande, and separated him from Fort Brown, which he had erected opposite to Matamoras. To rejoin the detachment at the fort, the general was compelled to fight the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. The Mexicans were defeated and driven across the Rio Grande, and then Fort Brown was relieved. Soon after this, vessels with military stores began to arrive at Point Isabel, and the village situated there became full of bustle and activity. Before the end of the war, a town of considerable size had grown up at the Point.



## JERUSALEM.

THIS place is well known to the readers of the Bible as a famous city of Palestine, where the Jews had their court and temples, and where Christ lived and suffered. The city stands on a hill, between two small valleys, in one of which, on the west, the brook Gihon runs, with a southeast course, to join the brook Kedron, in the narrow valley of Jehoshaphat, upon the east. The view of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives is beautiful. Every part of it may be seen from that point. The modern city, which was built about three hundred years ago, is entirely surrounded

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JERUSALEM.

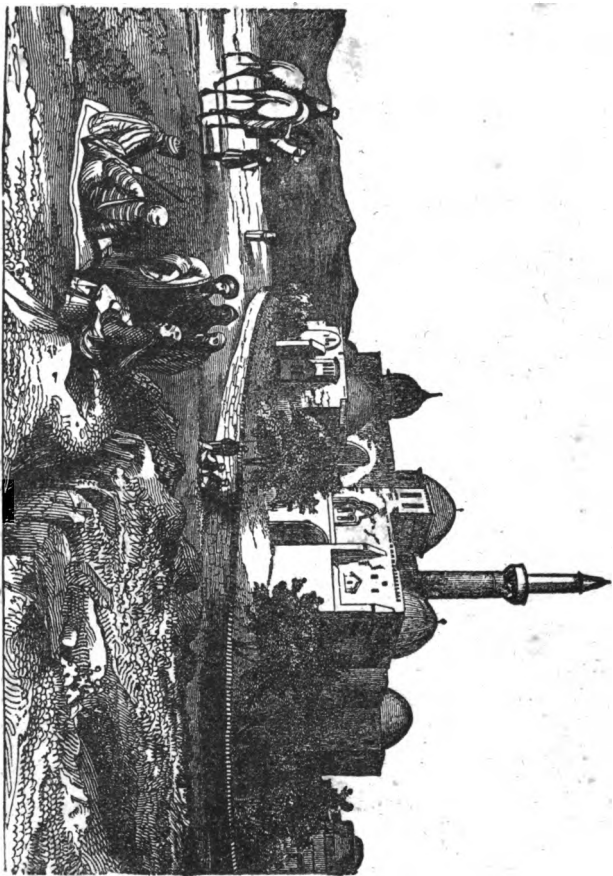


by walls, barely two and a half miles in circumference, flanked here and there by square towers. The four principal gates are those of Damascus and Jaffa on the west, that of Zion on the south, and St. Stephen on the east. The interior is divided by two valleys, intersecting each other at right angles into four hills, on which history, sacred and profane, has stamped the names of Zion, Acra, Beze-tha, and Moriah. Zion is now the Armenian and Jewish quarter; Acra is the Christian portion; while the splendid mosque of Omar, with its sacred inclosure occupies the hill of Moriah, the site of the Temple of Solomon. The Holy Sepulchre and several handsome mosques and churches are to be seen in the city.

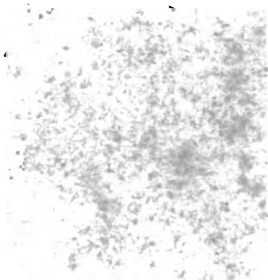
## MOUNT MORIAH, AT JERUSALEM.

MOUNT MORIAH was once crowned with the House of the Lord, built by Solomon. This splendid temple was totally destroyed at the siege of Jerusalem, by the Roman Emperor Titus, A. D., 70. The Mahommedan mosque of Omar now occupies the sacred site. This grand edifice stands on an elevated four-sided plateau about fifteen hundred feet long, and one thousand feet broad, supported on all sides by massive walls, built up from the lower ground. The mosque is of an eight-sided shape, surmounted by a lead-covered dome, above which is a glittering

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**MOSQUE OF EL AKSA, ON MOUNT MORIAH.**



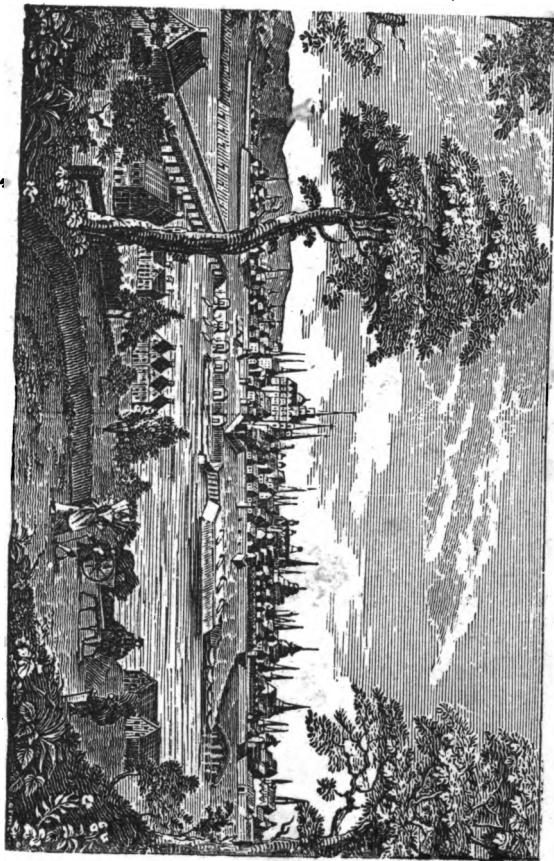
crescent. It has four entrances, one of which towards the north is adorned by a fine portico, supported by eight pillars. The forty-eight windows are of stained glass. Altogether, the mosque is an elegant specimen of Eastern architecture. Within the same inclosure, near its south walls, is another mosque, of square shape, called El Aksa. The cupola is spherical, and ornamented with arabesque paintings and gildings of great beauty. Between the mosques, is a handsome marble fountain for ablutions, such as are enjoined by the Mahommedan religion. It is believed that only four Christians have been admitted within the walls of the principal mosque.



## VIENNA.

VIENNA, the capital of the Austrian empire, is situated on an arm of the Danube, where it is joined by the small rivers, Ulien and Alster. Before the insurrection of 1848, the population of the city amounted to four hundred and fifty thousand. But it is said to have decreased. Vienna is of a circular form, being about ten miles in circumference. The city proper, in the centre, is, however, only three miles round. It is inclosed by ramparts of brick work, and a beautiful glacis, from two to three furlongs broad, planted with trees, and laid out

VIENNA.



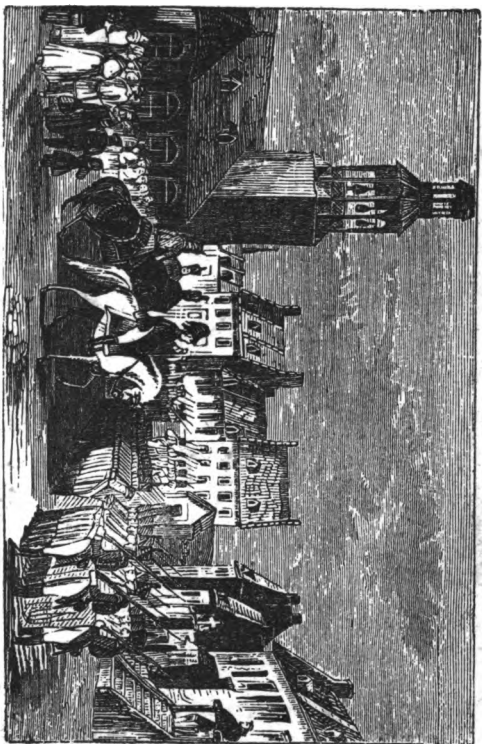


in public walks. These separate the city from its numerous suburbs, which, on the south side of the Danube, are again inclosed by a line of ramparts, where the passports of travellers are demanded. Vienna, from its size, wealth, population, and activity, deserves to be compared with London and Paris. Its chief points of external difference from these capitals are, that it preserves about it more antique grandeur, and that it is the old and not the new parts of the town which form the fashionable quarters. In the city proper, the streets are narrow and crooked; but in the suburbs, there are many fine thoroughfares. The inhabitants are lively, industrious, and fond of pleasure.

## MONTREAL.

MONTREAL is the second city and chief seat of commerce in Lower Canada. It is situated on the south side of the island of Montreal, in the St. Lawrence, one hundred and forty-two miles southwest of Quebec. Montreal is divided into the upper and lower town—the difference in their elevation is but slight; but the former is the more modern and handsome portion of the city. It has several suburbs, including which, it stretches along the river for about two and a half miles. The population numbers about fifty thousand. Paul street is the chief

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PLACE D' ARMES, MONTREAL.



commercial thoroughfare in the lower town. The Place de Armes is the centre of the city; it is a large square, in which processions form, and public meetings are held. When there is a review of the military in this square, a beautiful view is presented. The most remarkable public edifice in Montreal is the Roman Catholic Cathedral. It is of Gothic architecture, faced with stone, roofed with tin, and has six towers, the three belonging to the front are two hundred and twenty feet in height. On the roof is a spacious promenade. The interior is capable of containing ten thousand persons, who may disperse by numerous outlets in five or six minutes. It comprises seven chapels and nine spacious aisle.

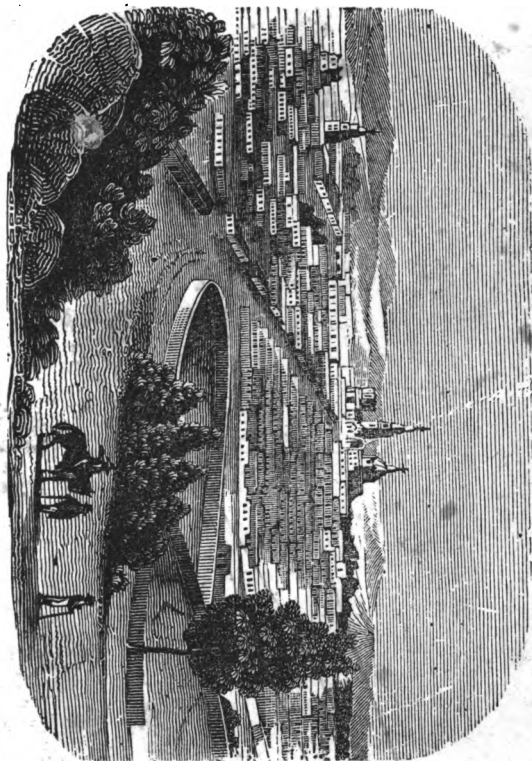


## SALTILLO.

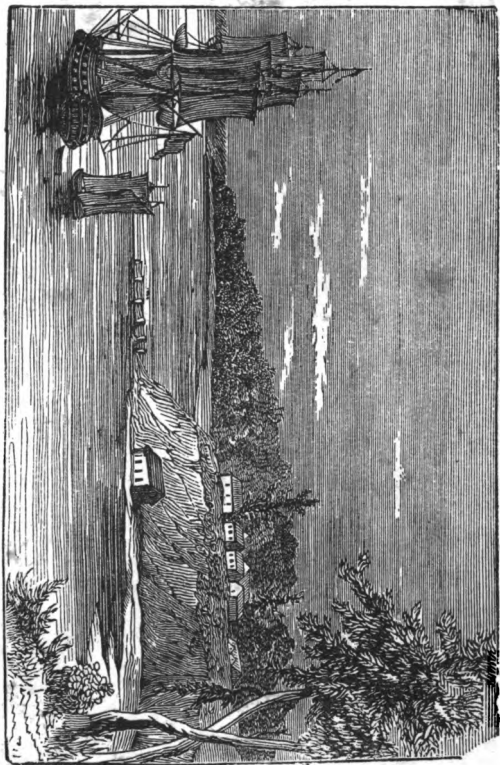
SALTILLO is one of the handsomest towns in Mexico. It is situated in the neighborhood of Monterey, and, with that city, fell into the possession of the army, commanded by General Taylor, in the Mexican war. At a distance, Saltillo has a regular and beautiful appearance. It contains a cathedral, several churches, and some fine squares and streets. The dwellings are built in the style so common in the Mexican cities—having flat roofs, open courts in the centre, and rather grotesque ornaments. The houses are generally built of stone.

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SALTILLO.







**YORKTOWN.**



## YORKTOWN.

YORKTOWN is situated on the south side of York river, opposite Gloucester, in Virginia. It is a port of entry, and contains a court-house, jail, and county offices, with about five hundred inhabitants. Some of the dwellings are old and dilapidated. Yorktown is memorable as the place where the American patriots gained the crowning victory of the revolutionary war, and forced Lord Cornwallis to surrender his army. The British commander, after being very successful in the states of North and South Carolina, had advanced northward into Virginia, where,

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finding he could gain no advantage over Generals Steuben and Lafayette, he took post at Yorktown, to wait for reinforcements. His position was strongly fortified. Works were even constructed at Gloucester, on the opposite side of the river. The combined French and American armies, under the command of General Washington, there besieged the British, in September, 1781. The besieged defended their works with courage and resolution; but Washington pressed the siege with vigor and skill, and no reinforcements arrived for Cornwallis. At length, when all hope of a successful defence was at end, his lordship resolved to capitulate, and on the 19th of October, he surrendered to General Washington.











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